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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,986	06/13/2001	Masaaki Hiroki	07977/278001/US4986	5921

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EXAMINER

VO, HUYEN X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/880,986	HIROKI, MASAAKI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Huyen Vo	2655	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some    \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/14/28;4/8/04</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 13, 22, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The step of "*verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible location*" is not clearly explained in the specification or drawings.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 13, 22, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The step of "*verifying, by the server or the first server, that the portable information equipment is disposed at a visible location*" is not clearly explained in the specification or drawings.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McAuliffe et al. (US Patent No. 5838790).

7. Regarding claim 33, McAuliffe et al. disclose an information providing method comprising the step of: sending, by a server, a commercial advertisement or a public service announcement stored in a database to a display device as information and displaying it thereon when the server does not receive a search signal from the portable information equipment (*col. 4, ln. 35 to col. 5, ln. 67*).

8. Regarding claim 34, McAuliffe et al. disclose an information providing method comprising a step of: storing, by a server, information for advertisement from a sponsor in a database (*col. 5, ln. 17-46*); sending the information to a display device, for providing as information the advertisement to an unspecified number of the general

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public (*col. 5, ln. 17-46*); and charging to the sponsor for using the information providing method as an advertising medium (*col. 5, ln. 40-67*).

9. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bennett et al. (US Patent No. 6615172).

10. Regarding claim 2, Bennett et al. disclose an information providing system comprising: a server (*server 180 in figure 1*); a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server (*Client 150 in figure 1*); and a display device for receiving information sent by the server (*col. 10, ln 54 to col. 11, ln. 17*), wherein the display device has means for generating a sound signal capable of identifying the entity (*col. 10, ln 54 to col. 11, ln. 17*), wherein the portable information equipment has means for hearing the sound signal and sending the sound signal to the server (*col. 10, ln 54 to col. 11, ln. 17*), and wherein the server has means for identifying the display device through the sound signal sent from the portable information equipment (*col. 10, ln 54 to col. 11, ln. 17, by receiving the query at the server, connection is established between client and server*).

11. Regarding claim 4, Bennett et al. disclose an information providing system comprising: a server (*server 180 in figure 1*); a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server (*Client 150 in figure 1*); and a display device for receiving information sent from the server, wherein the display device has means for

sensing a search signal and electromagnetic waves other than the search signal, which are sent by the portable information equipment (*col. 10, ln 54 to col. 11, ln. 17, the client system includes a display device and an query input device. The client also includes a wireless transmitter for transmitting query in the form of coded signal, which includes codes representing coding parameters and query information. Therefore, the transmitter senses the query information and the coding parameters, which are wirelessly transmitted to the server*).

12. Claims 3, 5-6, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Braden-Harder et al. (US Patent No. 5933822).

13. Regarding claim 3, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing system comprising: a server (*server 220 in figure 2*); a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server (*Client PC 300 in figure 2*); and a display device for receiving information sent by the server, wherein the display device has means for storing the information sent from the server (*col. 9, ln. 1-67*).

14. Regarding claim 5, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing system comprising: a server having a database (*server 220 includes a database 227 in figure 2*); a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server (*Client PC 300 in figure 2*); and a display device for receiving information sent by the server (*col. 9, ln. 1-67*), wherein the portable information equipment sends a search

signal to the server (*col. 8, ln. 56-67*), wherein the server conducts a search on the database based on the search signal and sends information obtained by the search to the display device (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 7, ln. 67*), and wherein the display device displays the information thereon (*col. 9, ln. 1-67*).

15. Regarding claim 6, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing system comprising: a first server for obtaining information from a database managed by a second server (*col. 19, ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*); a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the first server (*col. 19, ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*); and a display device for receiving information from the first server, wherein the portable information equipment sends a search signal to the first server, wherein the first server has means for communicating with the second server (*col. 19, ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*); sends the search signal to the second server and searches the database managed by the second server based on the search signal (*col. 19, ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*); receives information obtained by the search (*col. 19, ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*); and sends the information to the display device, and wherein the display device displays the information thereon (*col. 19, ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*).

16. Regarding claim 35, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing method comprising a step of: sending, by a portable information equipment, a search signal to a server (*referring figure 2*); conducting, by the server, a search on a database based on the search signal (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*); sending information obtained

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by the search to a display device (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*); and displaying, by the display device, the information thereon, wherein the portable information equipment is capable of two-way communication with the server (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43 and referring to figure 2*).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claims 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braden-Harder et al. (US Patent No. 5933822) in view of Ramasubramani et al. (US Patent No. 6516316).

19. Regarding claim 25, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing method, comprising the steps of: sending, by the portable information equipment, a search signal to a first server (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43 and col. 19, ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*); communicating, by the first server, with a second server, sending the search signal to the second server, and conducting a search on a database managed by the second server based on the search signal, receiving information obtained by the search, and sending the information to the display device (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43 and col.*



19, *ln. 27 to col. 20, ln. 30*); and displaying, by the display device, the information thereon (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*).

Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose the steps of sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server; and verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment.

However, Ramasubramani et al. teach the steps of sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*); verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*).

Since Braden-Harder et al. and Ramasubramani et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of Ramasubramani et al. in order to enable the system to communicate with specific device/customer.

20. Regarding claims 26 and 28, Braden-Harder et al. further disclose a method according to claim 25, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public (*the invention is related to Internet search. Thus, information displayed on the PC monitor can be viewed by an unspecified*

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*number of people*), and receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*).

21. Regarding claim 29, Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose a method according to claim 25, further comprising a step of: receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite. However, the examiner takes official notice that voice/data communication via satellite is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of satellite communication in order to enable global communication without using high cost landline.

22. Regarding claim 27, the modified Braden-Harder do not disclose a method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of: communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

However, Ramasubramani et al. further disclose a method of communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*); and sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the

portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*).

Since the modified Braden-Harder et al. and Ramasubramani et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of Ramasubramani et al. in order to enable the system to communicate with specific device/customer.

23. Claims 7-12, 14-15, 16-22, 23-24, and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braden-Harder et al. (US Patent No. 5933822) in view of Ramasubramani et al. (US Patent No. 6516316), and further in view of McAuliffe et al. (US Patent No. 5838790).

24. Regarding claim 16, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing method comprising the steps of: sending, by the server, information for displaying a menu screen for conducting a search to the display device (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*); sending, by the portable information equipment, a search signal (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*); conducting, by the server, a search on a database based on the search signal (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*); sending, by the server, information obtained by the search to the display device (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*).

Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose the steps of sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a display device and the portable

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information equipment itself to a server; verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment; and verifying, by the server, that the information was displayed on the display device, and requesting a communication line manager an accounting to the portable information equipment.

However, Ramasubramani et al. teach the steps of sending, by a portable information equipment, an identification signal of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*); verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*).

Since Braden-Harder et al. and Ramasubramani et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of Ramasubramani et al. in order to enable the system to communicate with specific device/customer.

The modified Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose the step of verifying, by the server, that the information was displayed on the display device, and requesting a communication line manager an accounting to the portable information equipment. However, McAuliffe et al. further teach the step of verifying, by the server, that the information was displayed on the display device, and requesting a communication line manager an accounting to the portable information equipment (*col. 5, ln. 1-67*).

Since the modified Braden-Harder et al. and McAuliffe et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one

of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of McAuliffe et al. in order to enable the developer to automatically and appropriately charge customers for the services provided.

25. Regarding claim 7, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing method comprising the steps of: conducting, by the server, a search on a database and sends information obtained by the search to the display device (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*); displaying, by the display device, the information sent from the server thereon ();

Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose the steps of sending, by a portable information equipment, entity identification information of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server; and verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment;

However, Ramasubramani et al. teach the steps of sending, by a portable information equipment, entity identification information of a display device and the portable information equipment itself to a server (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*); and verifying, by the server, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*);

Since Braden-Harder et al. and Ramasubramani et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of Ramasubramani et al. in order to enable the system to communicate with specific device/customer.

The modified Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose the step of verifying, by the server, that the information is displayed on the display device and charging to the portable information equipment. However, McAuliffe et al. teach the step of verifying, by the server, that the information is displayed on the display device and charging to the portable information equipment (*col. 5, ln. 1-67*).

Since the modified Braden-Harder et al. and McAuliffe et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of McAuliffe et al. in order to enable the developer to automatically charge customers for the services provided.

26. Regarding claims 8 and 17, Braden-Harder et al. disclose a method according to claims 7 and 20, further comprising the steps of: adjusting search signals and conducting searches on the database upon receiving the search signals from the plurality of portable information equipment (*referring figures 11-13*); sequentially sending, by the server, a plurality of information obtained by the search to the display device (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*); and displaying, by the display device, the plurality of different information on the display portion which is divided into a plurality of regions, or displaying the plurality of different information on the display portion while overlapping with each other (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*).

27. Regarding claims 9, 11, 18, and 20, Braden-Harder et al. further disclose a method according to claims 7 and 16, wherein the display device is disposed at a place that can be seen by an unspecified number of the general public (*the invention is related to Internet search. Thus, information displayed on the PC monitor can be viewed by an unspecified number of people*), and receiving, by the display device, the information sent from the server or the first server through a line (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*).

28. Regarding claims 12 and 21, Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose a method according to claims 7 and 21, further comprising a step of: receiving, by the display device, information sent from the server or the first server via a satellite. However, the examiner takes official notice that voice/data communication via satellite is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of satellite communication in order to enable global communication without using high cost landline.

29. Regarding claims 10 and 19, the modified Braden-Harder do not disclose a method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of: communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity; and sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server.

However, Ramasubramani et al. further disclose a method of communicating, by the portable information equipment and the display device, a signal capable of identifying the entity (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*); and sending, by the portable information equipment, the entity identification information of the display device and the portable information equipment itself to the server or the first server (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*).

Since the modified Braden-Harder et al. and Ramasubramani et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of Ramasubramani et al. in order to enable the system to communicate with specific device/customer.

30. Regarding claims 14-15, 23-24, and 31-32, the modified Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose a method according to claims 7, 16, and 25, further comprising a step of displaying, by the display device, information selected from information delivered by a news agency, a newspaper publishing company or a broadcasting station, and displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation.

However, McAuliffe et al. further teach a method of displaying, by the display device, advertisements (*col. 5, ln. 1-67, information delivered by news agency, newspaper company, and broadcasting station are considered as advertisement*



*information*), and displaying, by the display device, on the same screen the delivered information and the information obtained by the search on the database, for a programmed period of time or at a time when the server performs an operation (*col. 5, ln. 1-67*).

Since the modified Braden-Harder et al. and McAuliffe et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of McAuliffe et al. in order to enable the system to present various advertisements to users increase the chance of matching user's interest.

31. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braden-Harder et al. (US Patent No. 5933822) in view of Ramasubramani et al. (US Patent No. 6516316), and further in view of Teare et al. (US Patent No. 6151624).

32. Regarding claim 1, Braden-Harder et al. disclose an information providing system comprising: a server (*Server 220 in fig 2*); a portable information equipment capable of two-way communication with the server (*Client PC 300 in fig 2*); and a display device for receiving information sent by the server (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*), wherein the server comprises: a database (*database 227 in figure 2*); means for receiving a search signal sent from the portable information equipment (*col. 8, ln. 56 to col. 9, ln. 43*); means for conducting searches on the database based on the search signal (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*); and means for sending information obtained by the search to the display device (*col. 9, ln. 1-43*).

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Braden-Harder et al. do not disclose a means for receiving a signal relating to entity identification of the portable information equipment and of the display device. However, Ramasubramani et al. teach a means for receiving a signal relating to entity identification of the portable information equipment and of the display device (*col. 6, ln. 47 to col. 7, ln. 39*).

Since Braden-Harder et al. and Ramasubramani et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of Ramasubramani et al. in order to enable the system to communicate with specific device/customer.

The modified Braden-Harder et al. fail to disclose a means for charging an information provision fee to the portable information equipment. However, Teare et al. teach a means for charging an information provision fee to the portable information equipment (*col. 27, ln. 40-63*).

Since the modified Braden-Harder et al. and Teare et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Braden-Harder et al. by incorporating the teaching of Teare et al. in order to enable the developer to automatically charge customers for using the service.

### ***Conclusion***

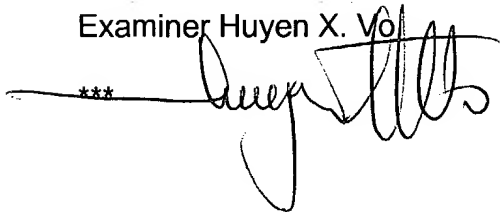
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-8665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

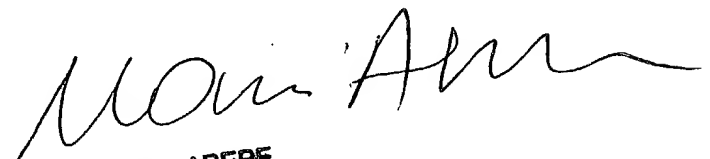
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Huyen X. Vo

July 30, 2004

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DANIEL ABEDE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER